

FIG. 4

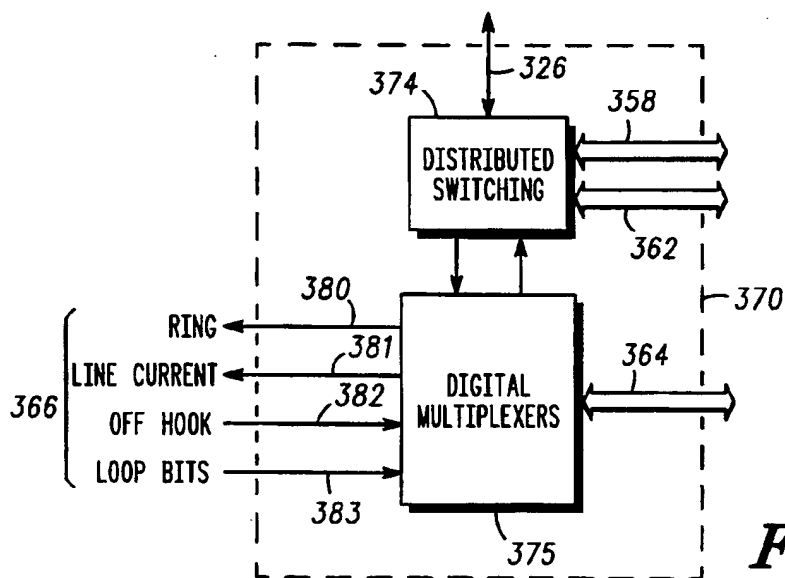


FIG. 5

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TITLE: Apparatus and method for a data communications device to selectively operate as an analog modem, as a digital modem, and as a terminal adapter

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Detailed Description Text - DETX (5):

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating the preferred embodiment of the present invention. As discussed in greater detail below, the data communication device of the preferred embodiment may be selectively configured by the user to operate in any one of a plurality of modes, namely, as an analog modem, as a digital modem, or as a terminal adapter. In addition, after a first operating mode is selected, the data communication device of the preferred embodiment may be reconfigured by the user to operate in a second, third or otherwise different operating mode. As shown in FIG. 4, a data communication device 300 is coupleable to a terminal 100 to transmit and receive data over the PSTN 126, when coupled to the PSTN through an analog interface circuit 314 (also known as a data access arrangement or "DAA"), and to transmit and receive data over the digital network 228, when coupled to the digital network 228 through a digital interface circuit 318. As used herein, "digital network" or "digital communications network" shall also include digital connections or interfaces to the central office of the public switched network, including through T1 or E1 interfaces, in addition to digital networks such as ISDN. The user of the data communications device 300 may select the type of operating mode (as an analog modem, as a digital modem, or as a terminal adapter), through a plurality of user command signals entered via the user interface 301 coupled to the processor 370. The user may initially select a particular operating mode, and may subsequently change or revise the operating mode. For example, a user may initially couple the data communication device 300 to a first communications network such as the PSTN 126, and correspondingly select the operating mode of the device to be as an analog modem, through user command signals entered through the user interface 301. Subsequently, the user may have capability to access a second communications network, such as a T1, ISDN or other digital networking interface or capability installed at the user facility. The user may then

reconfigure the data communication device 300, through other user command signals (from the plurality of user command signals) entered through the user interface 301, to operate in various digital operating modes, such operating as a digital modem or operating as a terminal adapter.